

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/813,851

Examiner

Christopher Onuaku

Applicant(s)

SUDA, HAJIME

Art Unit

2616

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☐ This communication is responsive to ____.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-11.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: ____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 3/24/01
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date ____.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-11 are allowable over the prior art of record.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Regarding claim 1, the invention relates to a reproducing apparatus with a sub-picture processing function useful in applying to, for example, a DVD (digital versatile disk) video reproducing apparatus.

The closest references Yamauchi et al (US 6,393,202) teach an optical disc which is used for recording video information which includes video data, audio data, and image data, a reproduction apparatus for the disc, Yoshio et al (US 6,266,478) teach an information record medium, such as an optical disk, of high recording density type which is capable of recording information such as video information, audio information, and the like, at a high density, and a reproducing apparatus for reproducing the information from the information record medium.

However, Yamauchi et al and Yoshio et al fail to explicitly disclose a reproducing apparatus with a sub-picture processing function, where the reproducing apparatus further comprises a sub-picture processing means for receiving the sub-picture signal decoded at the sub-picture decoder and changing the layout position and/or size of the sub-picture signal.

Regarding claim 6, the invention relates to a reproducing apparatus with a sub-picture processing function useful in applying to, for example, a DVD (digital versatile disk) video reproducing apparatus.

The closest references Yamauchi et al (US 6,393,202) teach an optical disc which is used for recording video information which includes video data, audio data, and image data, a reproduction apparatus for the disc, Yoshio et al (US 6,266,478) teach an information record medium, such as an optical disk, of high recording density type which is capable of recording information such as video information, audio information, and the like, at a high density, and a reproducing apparatus for reproducing the information from the information record medium.

However, Yamauchi et al and Yoshio et al fail to explicitly disclose a reproducing apparatus with a sub-picture processing function, where the reproducing apparatus further comprises a sub-picture processing means for receiving the sub-picture signal decoded at the sub-picture decoder and changing the layout position and/or size of the sub-picture signal, and a control means for supplying a control signal for enlarging or reducing the sub-picture signal to the sub-picture processing means.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Kim (US 6,556,252) teaches a television receiver which permits a viewer to simultaneously watch a main picture and a sub-picture, and process a sub-picture for such a television.

Art Unit: 2616

Matsuura et al (US 5,818,541) teach a television receiver and a tuning control method, including a program-scanning mode in which a viewer can scan broadcasting programs that are broadcast when the viewer watches a broadcasting program.

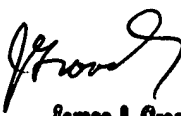
Numata (US 6,346,971) teaches a picture synthesizing system for synthesizing main picture data compressed by the PEG scheme with sub-picture data such as subtitles compressed by the run-length scheme.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christopher Onuaku whose telephone number is 571-272-7379. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Groody can be reached on 571-272-7950. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


COO
1/20/06


James J. Groody
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Art Unit 262 2616